

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

Publication stage

DUTY TO CO-OPERATE UPDATE

BACKGROUND PAPER

SEPTEMBER 2016

DUTY TO COOPERATE STATEMENT

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Statement has been prepared to support the Publication Stage of the Local Plan (Regulation 19). The statement presents a summary of the approach taken so far by North West Leicestershire District Council to address the duty to cooperate (“the Duty”) and show how we have discharged our duty to cooperate in relation to the production of the Local Plan. It identifies and explains ways in which the Council have collaborated and cooperated with other public bodies and stakeholders and organisations throughout its preparation of its Local Plan.
- 1.2 The Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) places a duty on local planning authorities and other bodies to co-operate with each other to address strategic issues relevant to their areas. The duty requires ongoing constructive engagement on the preparation of development plan documents and other activities in relation to the sustainable development and use of land.
- 1.3 The document should be read in conjunction with the Consultation Statement which provides details of the statutory consultations that take place, including how representations were made and taken into account throughout the preparation of the Local Plan.
- 1.4 This document has been updated from that published alongside the Local Plan in July 2016 to take account of more recent discussions in respect of the issue of housing requirements. The update parts are shown in **bold and underlined**.

2 WHAT IS THE DUTY TO COOPERATE?

- 2.1 The Localism Act 2011¹ makes strategic planning the responsibility of local councils. Section 110 of the Localism Act, which amended the Compulsory and Purchase Act 2004, introducing Section 33A, sets out the duty to cooperate and places a legal duty on local planning authorities, county councils and other prescribed bodies to cooperate with each other when preparing development plan documents in order to address strategic planning issues relevant to their areas. This duty to cooperate:
- relates to a ‘strategic matter’ defined as sustainable development or use of land that would have a significant impact on at least two local planning areas or on a matter that falls within the remit of a county council;
 - requires that councils set out planning policies to address such issues;
 - requires that councils and other bodies ‘engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis’ to develop strategic policies; and
 - requires councils to consider joint approaches to plan making.

¹ The Localism Act 2011 is available at [Localism Act 2011](#)

2.2 The prescribed local planning authorities and County Councils for North West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC) are identified as follow;

Leicestershire Authorities

- Charnwood Borough Council
- Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
- Blaby District Council *
- Leicester City Council *
- Oadby and Wigston Borough Council *
- Melton Borough Council *
- Harborough District Council
- Leicestershire County Council

*Not adjoining North West Leicestershire District Council but within the County of Leicestershire.

Non-Leicestershire Authorities which adjoin North West Leicestershire

- North Warwickshire Borough Council
- Lichfield District Council
- South Derbyshire District Council
- Erewash Borough Council
- Rushcliffe District Council
- Derbyshire County Council

A Location Map siting these authorities in relation to North West Leicestershire District is contained within Appendix 1.

2.3 As well as applying to the above, the Duty also applies to a number of other “prescribed” bodies. Regulation 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012 sets out who those “prescribed” bodies are. Those bodies which are relevant to the preparation of the Local Plan are as follows.

- The Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Natural England
- The Civil Aviation Authority
- The Homes and Communities Agency
- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- The Office for Rail Regulation
- Highways England
- Leicestershire County Council (Highway Authority)
- The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership
- The Leicestershire Local Nature Partnership

These bodies or their predecessors have been consulted where appropriate at each stage in the preparation of the Local Plan.

2.4 The duty to cooperate is not a 'duty to agree'. However we are expected to demonstrate evidence of having successfully cooperated to plan for issues with cross boundary impacts when our Local Plan is submitted for examination. It is considered that the key requirement is therefore to present clear 'outcomes' emerge from the process of cooperation that has taken place.

2.5 The Local Plan examination will test whether a local planning authority has complied with the duty. If not addressed properly the Inspector will recommend that the Local Plan is not adopted and the examination will not proceed any further.

3 NATIONAL POLICY ON DUTY TO COOPERATE

3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) amplifies the requirements of the duty. Paragraph 156 of the NPPF identifies the strategic priorities that a Local Plan should deliver and where co-operation might be appropriate:

- the home and jobs needed in the areas
- the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
- the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunication, waster management, water supply., wastewater, flood risk and costal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat)
- the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities and
- climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.

3.2 Paragraph 162 of the NPPF makes it clear that local planning authorities should work with other local planning authorities and providers to assess the quality and capacity of a range of infrastructure types. This will ensure that key infrastructure such as transport, telecommunications, energy, water, health, social care and education, is properly planned.

3.3 Paragraphs 178 to 181 of the NPPF identify that public bodies have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those related to strategic issues, and joint working should enable local planning authorities to work together to meet development requirements which cannot be wholly met within their areas. It also identifies that co-operation should be a continuous process of engagement to ensure that plans are in place to provide the infrastructure necessary to support current and projected future levels of development. Local planning authorities will be expected to demonstrate evidence of having effectively cooperated to plan for issues with cross-boundary impacts when their Local Plans are submitted for examination.

3.4 The NPPF also sets out the tests of soundness which will be used in the examination of local plans. To be 'sound' the plan must be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent

with national policy. Two of these tests relate specifically to the duty to cooperate. The plan must be:

Positively prepared – the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development;

Effective – the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategy priorities.

4 HOW DO WE WORK JOINTLY ACROSS THE LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE HOUSING MARKET AREA?

4.1 Across the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA) there has been wide ranging co-operation, particularly in respect of joint evidence gathering, and some that pre-dates the Duty to Co-operate requirement. Later parts of this statement detail where such joint evidence gathering has taken place.

4.2 There are a number of officer forums within the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA) which aim to promote joint work and to address key strategic issues such as delivery of housing, employment and key infrastructure by local planning authorities, the County Council and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership. These are as follows;

- Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Planning Group (formerly known as the Housing, Planning and Infrastructure Group (HPIG));
- Planning Officers' Forum (POF);
- Development Control Forum;
- Development Plans Forum (DPF)

4.3 The role of Strategic Planning Group (SPG) is to oversee policy development for spatial planning, housing and infrastructure amongst Leicestershire local authorities. The Group meets regularly and is attended by senior management team representatives from all authorities across the HMA (including Leicestershire County Council).

4.4 SPG oversees the commissioning and running of joint work, for example the 2014 Strategic Housing Market Assessment and the current Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment and Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment update, and provides a forum at a high level for discussing common issues and developing understanding. It provides a direct link to the work of the LLEP and is currently leading on, at officer level, on the preparation of a Combined Authority bid and the development of a Strategic Growth Plan for the HMA.

4.5 The Planning Officers' Forum (POF) is a formal meeting of Chief Officers (or their nominee) responsible for planning and transport services within the HMA (and Rutland County Council). The Forum provides professional advice to the Strategic Planning Group that

supports its overall direction and work programme and the Chair of POF represents the views of the wider Forum at meetings of SPG. POF meets regularly in synergy with SPG

- 4.6 The Development Plans Forum is a formal meeting of the managers responsible for planning and transport policy within the HMA (and Rutland County Council) and reports to PO with the Chair attending POF as required.
- 4.7 The work of SPG and the subsidiary officer groups is overseen by a Member Advisory Group (MAG) which comprises of one representative from each local authority, plus an observer from the LLEP. The MAG meets on a regular frequency and its role is advisory. Any proposals or recommendations of MAG are not binding on the constituent member authorities. Any decisions regarding proposals for the development and/or implementation of any statutory or non-statutory Strategic Growth Plan remain the responsibility of each individual member authority.
- 4.8 The MOU in respect of housing requirements was agreed through MAG subject to ratification at individual local authority level (See Section below).

5. COMPLIANCE WITH THE DUTY TO COOPERATE

- 5. The following section summarises the strategic matters for North West Leicestershire which are likely to require co-operation, the key bodies that need to be involved and the work which has been undertaken to date. The bodies include those defined under Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012.
- 5.2 The **Tables** below identify the various ways within which we have cooperated on these matters.

STRATEGY

- 5.3 A key aspect of the Local Plan is to identify the amount of new jobs and homes needed in the district and then translating these in to the provision of sufficient land. Housing and economic needs are key issues that need to be addressed, with housing and economic needs identified and the Local Plan to identify how this need is to be met.

Policy S1 – Future Housing and Economic Development Needs
What have we cooperated on?: Identification of the districts’ employment’s land requirements through the preparation of the ‘Leicester and Leicestershire HMA Employment Land Study’ undertaken in 2013 by the Public and Corporate Economic Consultants (PACEC).
Who has been involved? The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership(LLEP) (who commissioned the and co-ordinated the study) All of the local planning authorities across the Leicester & Leicestershire Housing Market Area.
Process/Working Arrangements: The study was commissioned by the LLEP in 2012 who chaired a Steering Group attended by officers

from each of the local planning authorities and the consultants. The Steering Group met throughout the preparation of the study until it was completed.

The study was signed off by the then Housing Planning and Infrastructure Group in December 2012.

Outcome: Identification of employment land requirements for the district for the plan period. This piece of evidence has been used to inform Policy S1.

Ongoing: Together with the other Housing Market Area authorities, we have commissioned a Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) which will identify new housing and employment requirements. This work is currently scheduled to be completed in September 2016.

Policy S1 – Future Housing and Economic Development Needs

What have we cooperated on?:

- (a) Preparation of a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) (June 2014) and a subsequent Memorandum of Understanding (July 2014).
- (b) Establishing revised Objectively Assessed Need.

Who has been involved?

- (a) All of the local planning authorities across the Leicester & Leicestershire Housing Market Area.
- (b) All of the local planning authorities across the Leicester & Leicestershire Housing Market Area together with those authorities outside of the Leicester & Leicestershire Housing Market Area which adjoin North West Leicestershire (North Warwickshire, Lichfield, South Derbyshire, Erewash and Rushcliffe)

Process/Working Arrangements:

- (a) The SHMA was overseen by a Steering Group comprising officers from each of the local planning authorities under the auspices of the Strategic Planning Group. The SHMA and the MOU were signed off by the member Advisory Group on 24 July 2014, before the MOU was then signed off by individual authorities through their own internal processes.
- (b) In terms of HMA authorities see timeline set out at Appendix A.
In terms of non-HMA authorities see timeline set out at Appendix B

Outcome:

- (a) Established requirements for each HMA authority but within a recognition that *“In determining their housing target over the relevant plan period each authority will take account of all relevant evidence”* (MOU July 2014).
- (b) In terms of HMA authorities whilst it has not been possible to reach a formal agreement there is a clear understanding of the relative position of all authorities.
In terms of non-HMA authorities there is an understanding of the approach being taken by NWL with no concerns raised.

Ongoing: Together with the other Housing Market Area authorities, we have commissioned a Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) which will identify new housing and employment requirements. This work is currently scheduled to be completed in September 2016.

Work on the HEDNA is still taking place whilst discussion have commenced in respect of a proposed Memorandum of Understanding, although there is no agreed date by which these will be completed at this time.

Since the publication of the Local Plan the Council has continued to engage with the HMA authorities in respect of the Local Plan as well as the emerging Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) and a Memorandum of Understanding. Discussions have taken place at meetings of the Planning officers Forum (14 July 2016, 18 August 2016 and 14

September 2016) and at meetings of the Strategic Planning Group. In addition, a series of specific meetings to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding have taken place through September on a weekly basis.

As a result of these discussions and having regard to concerns expressed in response to the publication Local plan the Council has proposed a Minor Modification (M4) in respect of Policy S1 This proposed modification has been circulated and discussed with the HMA authorities. These discussions are ongoing but Oadby and Wigston Borough Council has confirmed that it is content with the suggested wording as a means of overcoming the concerns they had previously expressed.

The Council remains committed to working with all of the HMA authorities to collectively ensure that the future development needs of the HMA will be met.

Policy S2 – Settlement Hierarchy
Policy S3 – Countryside

What have we cooperated on?: The identification of the defined Limits to Development boundaries of our town, local and village centres.

Who has been involved?: We have co-operated and engaged with the district’s parish and town councils in the initial stages of identifying potential Limits to Development boundaries.. The purpose of the consultation was to seek their views on the draft boundaries and whether they would suggest any changes.

Process/Working Arrangements: Our parish and town councils were provided with a range of documentation, maps of suggested potential boundaries, along with an explanation of why these were chosen. Responses could be provided using the Councils website. We also offered and invited all parish and town councils to one of three drop in events, as detailed below:

10th December 2014: 3pm – 7.30pm at Ravenstone Institute, Leicester Road, Ravenstone, Coalville

11th December 2014: 3pm-7.30pm at Kegworth Village Hall, Nottingham Road, Kegworth

16th December 2014: 3pm -7.30pm at St Laurance’s Church Hall, High Street, Measham, DE12 7HZ

Ongoing: At present it is not anticipated there to be ongoing work on this specific matter should the Local Plan be adopted.

HOUSING

5.4 Housing needs and the distribution of housing is one of the key issues that the Local Plan must address, where co-operation will be required. The National Planning Policy Framework requires local planning authorities to identify the housing market area in which the authority sits and the housing needs, market and affordable, for the housing market area. The Local Plan should aim to meet its district’s objectively assessed housing needs. If housing needs cannot be accommodated within the authority where it arises, co-operation is required within the housing market area. Similarly there is the need to ensure that the accommodation needs of the gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople communities are planned for across the housing market area and within the district.

Policy H3 – Housing Provision: New Allocations

What have we cooperated on?: The identification of new housing allocations in the Local Plan, needed to ensure that the overall provision of housing will be sufficient to meet the plan's housing requirement.

Who has been involved?: We have co-operated and engaged with a range of bodies, which has been dictated by the planning issues relevant to the housing sites that have been discussed. The bodies involved have included Leicestershire County Council in their role as highways and education provider, Highways England, Environment Agency and Historic England.

Process/Working Arrangements: The key mechanism for co-operation has been discussion and liaison between local authority planning officers and representatives of these bodies as required. This contact has primarily taken the form of meetings, email communication and telephone conversations. In terms of the proposed allocation at North of Ashby de la Zouch, access issues were discussed in a meeting with Leicestershire County Council highways on 17 April 2015 and with Highways England on 24 March 2015. As a result the then draft policy was amended to reflect comments made by the County Highways Authority. Discussions have also taken place with Historic England to ensure appropriate wording with respect to impact on historic environment, including at a meeting on 4 February 2016.

Outcome: Identification of suitable housing allocations, contributing to meeting the district's housing need. This co-operative working has informed the detail of Policy H3.

Ongoing: Dialogue and liaison with these bodies will continue further should a planning application be submitted for the development of these sites.

Policy H4 – Affordable Housing

What have we cooperated on?: Identification of the districts' affordable housing need through joint working to produce a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) for the Housing Market Area of Leicester City and Leicestershire Authorities.

Who has been involved?: A joint SHMA was jointly commissioned by the District Council on behalf of all the partners in 2014 in order that the Objectively Assessed Needs both for the HMA as a whole and for individual districts could be identified. The HMA partners are North West Leicestershire District Council, Blaby District Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Harborough District Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, Melton Borough Council, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.

Process/Working Arrangements: The study was commissioned by the LLEP in 2012 who chaired a Steering Group attended by officers from each of the local planning authorities and the consultants. The Steering Group met throughout the preparation of the study until it was completed. The study was signed off by the then Housing Planning and Infrastructure Group in December 2012.

Outcome: The Leicester and Leicestershire SHMA identified the estimated level of annual need for affordable housing in the district for the plan period. This piece of evidence, along with a separate viability study which looked at the potential impact of all of the policies in this Local Plan upon the viability of new development, has been used to inform Policy H3, which sets the level of affordable housing that will be sought and in what circumstances.

Ongoing: Together with the other Housing Market Area authorities, we have commissioned a Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) which will identify new housing

and employment requirements. This work is currently scheduled to be completed in September 2016. This will provide an updated level of annual need for affordable housing in the district.

Policy H6 – House Types and Mix

What have we cooperated on?: Identification of the districts' need for house types and sizes through joint working to produce a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) for the Housing Market Area of Leicester City and Leicestershire Authorities.

Who has been involved?: A joint SHMA was jointly commissioned by the District Council on behalf of all the partners in 2014 in order that the Objectively Assessed Needs both for the HMA as a whole and for individual districts could be identified. The HMA partners are North West Leicestershire District Council, Blaby District Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Harborough District Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, Melton Borough Council, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.

Process/Working Arrangements: The study was commissioned by the LLEP in 2012 who chaired a Steering Group attended by officers from each of the local planning authorities and the consultants. The Steering Group met throughout the preparation of the study until it was completed. The study was signed off by the then Housing Planning and Infrastructure Group in December 2012.

Outcome: The Leicester and Leicestershire SHMA indicates the need for various types and sizes of houses and recommends the mix of housing size that should be sought within the district. This piece of work has been used to inform Policy H4, which seeks an appropriate mix of house type, size and tenure to meet the needs of the community.

Ongoing: Together with the other Housing Market Area authorities, we have commissioned a Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) which will identify new housing and employment requirements. This work is currently scheduled to be completed in September 2016. This will provide an updated picture of the housing types, size and tenure that would meet the needs of the community.

Policy H7 – Provision for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople

What have we cooperated on? To date collaborative working has been ongoing in the preparation of joint evidence to identify these accommodation needs at a district level.

Who has been involved? Initially the Council, along with other Leicestershire Authorities, commissioned the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Gypsy and Travellers' Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) (2007). This identified the existing level of provision and provided a reliable estimate of future need for the period 2006-2016. The commissioning authorities for this piece of evidence included Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council, Rutland County Council, Blaby District Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Harborough Borough Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Melton Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.

Subsequently a refresh of the original 2007 GTAA Study was undertaken by all of the above authorities, with the exception of Rutland County Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council who undertook their own individual GTAAs. The joint refresh was published in May 2013.

Process/Working Arrangements: The preparation of both the 2007 study and 2013 refresh were overseen by a Steering Group of officers from each of the HMA authorities, together with a

representative from the Leicestershire Multi Agency Traveller Unit, who met throughout the period that the respective studies were undertaken. Meetings and email was the main form of communication between the authorities as well as the project authors.

Issues were also reported to the forum of the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing, Planning and Infrastructure Group (HPIG)

Outcome: The 2013 Refresh indicates the accommodation needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople, in each of the participating districts, for the period 2031. This piece of work has been used to inform Policy H7, which identifies the minimum number of pitches and plots that will be sought through the plan period.

Ongoing: Since the completion of the 2014 GTAA Refreshment and the time that has passed since its publication, it is considered beneficial for this work to be updated in order to ensure a robust evidence base is maintained. Therefore we, along with Leicester City Council and a number of the other Leicestershire authorities (Blaby DC, Charnwood BC, Harborough BC, Melton BC and Oadby and Wigson BC), are seeking to commission consultants to complete a new GTAA. This work is timetabled to commence in July 2016 and anticipated to be completed by the end of November 2016.

In addition, with respect to the estimated future requirements, it must be borne in mind that these numbers are based on need where it arises, i.e. based on where the existing gypsy and traveller population resides and therefore reflects the uneven distribution of the gypsy and traveller population across the district. At this stage we are unaware as to whether we can accommodate our identified need wholly within the district and it is considered that a search of sites will need to be undertaken. Therefore NWLDC are currently working on the process of seeking to identify potential sites, through the preparation of its Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document. It is recognised that when developing this planning document and its policies we, under our duty to co-operate obligations, may need to discuss the distribution of pitch provision with neighbouring local authorities if it is found that the district's needs cannot be fully met within its boundaries

Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA & ELAA)

What have we cooperated on? In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, Local Planning Authorities are required to assess the existing and future supply of land for housing and economic development in order to meet objectively assessed need. Authorities have worked on the preparation of a joint approach/methodology to the SHLAA and ELAA. This is used as evidence to assist in the identification of sites to meet the district's identified development needs.

Who has been involved? Initially representative was from all if the local planning authorities within the Leicester and Leicestershire HMA. Representatives from Leicestershire County Council, as the Mineral Authority, now also form part of this working group.

Process/Working Arrangements: The key mechanism for co-operation has been the establishment of a working group. This has comprised a planning officer from each of the participating authorities, led by a lead authority, a responsibility that has been rotated. Communication has primarily been through email correspondence although when necessary officers have met on occasions when necessary (i.e. national policy changes such as NPPF & NPPG and potential changes to methodology. A joint methodology has been prepared by the working group.

Outcome: An agreed joint approach to the preparation of strategic housing and economic land

availability assessments. This can be used to enable each authority's individual SHLAA & ELAA to follow the same broad methodology. The initial Joint Methodology was agreed in 2008, with a revision agreed in 2012 and the most recent revision in 2016 that is soon to be published.

Ongoing: The revised document is soon to be published. However the group will reform as and when is necessary should guidance require changes.

ECONOMIC

5.5 Policy S1 identifies the district's economic need for the plan period. Having taken into account the sites that have the benefit of planning permission for employment development the plan identifies a shortfall in provision. In deciding which sites should be allocated to address the shortfall, joint working has been undertaken as detailed in the table below.

Policy Ec2 – Employment Provision: New Allocations

What have we cooperated on?: The identification of an employment allocation in the Local Plan, needed to ensure that the overall provision of employment land will be sufficient to meet the plan's identified requirement.

Who has been involved?: We have co-operated and engaged with a range of bodies, which has been dictated by the planning issues relevant to the sites that have been discussed. The bodies involved have included Leicestershire County Council in their role as the highways authority and Highways England, Environment Agency and Historic England.

Process/Working Arrangements: The key mechanism for co-operation has been discussion and liaison between local authority planning officers and representatives of these bodies as required. This contact has primarily taken the form of meetings, email communication and telephone conversations. In terms of the proposed allocation at North of Ashby de la Zouch, access issues were discussed in a meeting with Leicestershire County Council highways on 17 April 2015 and with Highways England on 24 March 2015. As a result the then draft policy was amended to reflect comments made by the County Highways Authority. Discussions have also taken place with Historic England to ensure appropriate wording with respect to impact on historic environment, including at a meeting on 4 February 2016.

Outcome: Identification of a suitable employment allocation, contributing to meeting the district's need. This co-operative working has informed the detail of Policy Ec2.

Ongoing: Dialogue and liaison with these bodies will continue further should a planning application be submitted for the development of this site.

5.6 The NPPF suggests that Local Planning Authorities should identify/define town centres and primary shopping areas. This is reflected in Policy Ec10. When considering and identifying the possible areas for such designations, engagement was undertaken with the district's parish and town councils as detailed in the table below.

Policy Ec10 – Town and local Centre – Primary Shopping Area – Non Shopping uses

What have we cooperated on?: The identification of the district's defined town centre and primary shopping centres in the Local Plan, in conformity with the NPPF.

Who has been involved?: We have co-operated and engaged with the district's parish and town councils in the initial stages of identifying potential boundaries for our town centres and primary shopping areas. The purpose of the consultation was to seek their views on the draft boundaries.

Process/Working Arrangements: Our parish and town councils were provided with a range of documentation, maps of suggested potential boundaries, along with an explanation of why these were chosen. Responses could be provided using the Councils website. We also offered and invited all parish and town councils to one of three drop in events, as detailed below:

10th December 2014: 3pm – 7.30pm at Ravenstone Institute, Leicester Road, Ravenstone, Coalville

11th December 2014: 3pm-7.30pm at Kegworth Village Hall, Nottingham Road, Kegworth

16th December 2014: 3pm -7.30pm at St Lurance’s Church Hall, High Street, Measham, DE12 7HZ

A meeting was also held with the Coalville Town Team (7 January 2015) and Ashby Town Team (11 November 2014) to discuss the suggested boundaries and to seek their views.

Outcome: Identification of defined town and local centre boundaries as well as primary shopping areas across the district.

Ongoing: At present it is not anticipated there to be ongoing work on this specific matter should the Local Plan be adopted.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

5.7 The majority of new development that the district requires is already committed as a result of planning permissions. These permissions include for the provision of infrastructure to mitigate the impact of development. However, any further development which comes forward will still need to ensure that the impact on existing infrastructure is acceptable and where it is not additional infrastructure will need to be provided.

5.8 An Infrastructure Delivery Plan has been prepared which highlights the key infrastructure which is proposed or required. It will be kept up to date and added to as new requirements or needs are identified.

Policy IF1 – Development and Infrastructure

What have we cooperated on?: Joint working has been undertaken with a range of organisations to identify the infrastructure required to support the new development proposed in the Local Plan. In particular an infrastructure Delivery Plan has been prepared which assesses the infrastructure needed to support the development strategy for the district, including the level of growth proposed, along with the identification of any gaps in infrastructure, what other infrastructure is likely to occur and potential funding sources.

Who has been involved?: The Council commissioned consultants (AECOM) to produce an Infrastructure Development Plan which was published in 2016.

Process/Working Arrangements: This Infrastructure Delivery Plan has been prepared in consultation with a number of partners within the District Council, the County Council and wider infrastructure providers. Extensive discussions have take place with stakeholder to gather information about the infrastructure implications arising from new development. In addition a project workshop was held in April 2016 and a further follow up meeting held in May 2016. The table below sets out details of those partners engaged as part of this process to enable the continuation of this process and a live IDP document.

- West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS trust
- Leicestershire Police

- Leicestershire County Council (Highway Authority and Education Authority)
- Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Partnership
- Highway England
- Statutory Undertakers including Severn Trent Water Limited, Western Power Distribution, the National Grid, Open Reach, BT
- Network Rail
- Environment Agency

Outcome: A suggested Infrastructure Development Plan Schedule along with the prioritisation of projects, to support the district's development strategy.

Ongoing: The IDP is a live document and will be kept up to date and will be regularly reviewed and updated in line with progress on the local plan, strategic development sites and the emergence of new important information relating to infrastructure delivery. Engagement will be undertaken with those bodies relevant to the infrastructure that is being sought.

Policy IF4 – Transport Infrastructure and New Development

What have we cooperated on?: Joint working has been undertaken to facilitate the development of transportation policy and to identify the transport infrastructure required to support the new development proposed in the Local Plan.

Who has been involved?: The Council have co-operated and engaged with the key transport authorities including Leicestershire County Council, Highways England, Network Rail as well as East Midlands Airport.

Process/Working Arrangements:

As part of the work on the withdrawn Core Strategy we:

- undertook an assessment of the transport implications arising from a range of growth options that were proposed, using PTOLEMY. PTOLEMY is an integrated land use and transport model, which was developed for a consortium that included the Highways Agency, the former Regional Assembly (EMRA) and Development Agency (EMDA) as well as East Midlands Airport.
- Undertook further modelling using the

Leicester and Leicestershire Transport Model (LLITM). This provides land-use and transport forecasts, and is managed and maintained by Leicestershire County Council and available for use by the district councils. We have used this model to identify the demand impacts of the planned growth including the impact of growth on emission and air quality.

It is also recognised that strategic upfront highway infrastructure is needed to support the planned growth in the district. Therefore the District Council has made two bids to the LLEP, with the support of Leicestershire County Council, and through the Growing Places Fund Round 2, for loans towards the cost of implementing improvements along the A511 corridor and the motorway/A42 junction improvements. This has resulted in an offer of loans totally £1.75 million from the LLEP.

In addition, the Council is currently engaged in a joint work with Leicestershire County Council to develop a strategy for improvements along the A511 Corridor.

Outcome: Planned growth within the district that is supported by the necessary highway infrastructure. Both Leicestershire County Council and Highways England have confirmed that having regard to the modelling work outlined above that the growth proposed in the Local Plan can

be accommodated without significant adverse impacts on the highway network. Copies of the relevant correspondence are contained within Appendix C. This piece of work has also been issued to inform Policy IF4 which seeks appropriate transport infrastructure provision and identifies those strategic and local road improvements for which contributions will be sought.

Ongoing: Work has recently commenced on updating LLITM to undertake further modelling forecasts across the Housing Market Area. This project is being managed by Leicestershire County Council, who are undertaking engagement with all the District and Borough Councils, a process which we are part of.

Policy IF5 – The Leicester to Burton Rail Line

What have we cooperated on? A study to assess the potential for re-opening the former Leicester-Burton railway line to passenger traffic.

Who has been involved? Initially Leicestershire County Council commissioned a study in 2009 to give an indication of the impact of growth on the viability of a reopened line (now referred to as the National Forest Line). The re-appraisal concluded that the scheme would not be good value for money and that the project would be unlikely to cover its operating costs without some form of ongoing subsidy.

In view of the time that had elapsed since this study the District Council together with the County Council and commissioned further work in 2015 to look at the potential for the re-introduction of a passenger rail service along the former route. The study once again concluded that such a service would not be viable without a significant public subsidy.

Process/Working Arrangements: The study was overseen by a small officer Steering Group chaired by Leicestershire County Council and involving a representative from the Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership and the appointed consultants.

Outcome: The study concluded that such a service would not be viable without a significant public subsidy.

Ongoing: The re-instatement of passenger services on the National Forest Line has been a long-term ambition of North West Leicestershire District Council and remains as such, although it is recognised that this may need to take the form of some other form of public transport rather than traditional rail. This is recognised in the wording of Policy IF5.

ENVIRONMENT

Nature Conservation

Policy En1 – Nature Conservation

What have we cooperated on?: Preparation of Local Plan policies relating which seeks to minimise the potential impacts of development on areas of biodiversity importance and, where possible, achieve net gains in biodiversity.

Who has been involved?: The Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre were commissioned to prepare a Ecological Networks Report which has been used to inform Policy En1. This work recognises that the ecological network does not stop at a planning authority's boundaries. Most wildlife corridors cross administrative boundaries.

Process/Working Arrangements: The study was overseen by a small Steering group of officers from the County and District Councils.

Outcome: Local Plan policy that has been prepared with a supporting evidence base that takes into account cross boundary issues.

Ongoing: At present it is not anticipated there to be ongoing work on this specific matter should the Local Plan be adopted.

The River Mease Special Area of Conservation

5.9 The river Mease, part of which flows through the district of North West Leicestershire, was designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) on 1st April 2005. The SAC is also designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The principal issue affecting the river Mease is that of water quality which has been found to be poor, mainly due to high phosphorus levels. The high levels of phosphorus were identified as representing a threat to the ability of the river to support its internationally important features in a sustainable way. From 2009 it became apparent that there were significant issues affecting the river Mease which, in view of its SAC status and the commensurate requirements under the Habitats Regulations, could impact upon the ability to bring forward new development.

5.10 The SAC includes land within the administrative areas of North West Leicestershire, South Derbyshire and Lichfield District Councils. Therefore the issues pertaining to the river Mease go beyond the boundaries of North West Leicestershire.

Policy En2 – River Mease Special Area of Conservation

What have we cooperated on?: Joint working to develop a solution for resolving the river Mease associated problems and its impact on development, including plans and strategies which will allow development to take place in the river Mease catchment whilst ensuring that the integrity of the river Mease is protected.

Who has been involved?: We have worked with a range of partner organisations (The Environment Agency; Natural England; Severn Trent Water Limited; South Derbyshire District Council; and Lichfield District Council to address this problem, including plans and strategies which will allow development to take place within the river Mease catchment area whilst ensuring that the integrity of the river Mease is protected.

Process/Working Arrangements: This joint working has involved the establishment of both a Programme Board and Technical Group comprising of representatives of each of the above organisations. The Programme Board is responsible for making key strategic decisions and meets quarterly, as do the Technical Group who is responsible for implementing the decisions of the Programme Board and actions from the various strategies and plans.

Outcome: Development of a Developer Contribution Scheme (DCS) in conjunction with the Programme Board and adopted by the District Council on 22 November 2012.

Since its adoption, the amount of phosphorous from new development is now approaching the capacity of the Development Window, and therefore a second Development Window has been identified. A DCS2 has been prepared, in conjunction with the Programme Board, and is currently going through the process of consultation before being adopted by the relevant local authorities. Once adopted DCS2 will ensure that there is sufficient capacity available to accommodate the development proposed in this Local Plan without affecting the integrity of the river Mease SAC.

A Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) prepared by the Environment Agency identifies a range

of measures designed to ensure that the status of the River Mease SAC achieves the Conservation Objectives for the SAC and is brought back into favourable condition.

Local Plan policy which reflects the approach to the river Mease that has been agreed together by all partner organisations.

Ongoing: The implementation of the DCS and the WQMP are overseen by the Programme Board who will also be responsible for subsequent reviews and amendments as deemed necessary.

The National Forest

5.11 The National Forest was established in the 1990s to transform the landscape of large parts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire and to provide a link to two ancient woodlands – Charnwood Forest in the east and Needwood Forest in the west.

Policy En3 – The National Forest

What have we cooperated on?: Since the establishment there has been a strong record of working across the National Forest area with the National Forest Company and the constituent Local Planning Authorities. The purpose of this joint working has been to support the creation of the National Forest and ensure consistency of approach. Initially this collaboratively working focussed upon adopting a common approach to the issue of securing new tree planting as part of new developments. This approach was enshrined in the various Local Plans which were then produced, including the North West Leicestershire Local Plan 2002.

This joint working has continued since and is ongoing. It seeks to ensure the continued creation of the National Forest, including tree planting and also to secure the future of the National Forest.

Who has been involved?: Representatives of the National Forest Company, Derbyshire County Council, Leicestershire County Council, Staffordshire County Council, North West Leicestershire District Council, South Derbyshire District Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Lichfield District Council and East Staffordshire Borough Council.

Process/Working Arrangements: The National Forest Planning Technical Group meets on a regular basis to discuss the above issues, and to share best practice and experience. This group comprises representatives from the above bodies. This group is run by the National Forest who seeks to ensure a meeting takes place approximately every 6 months and is ongoing.

The District Council also liaises closely with the National Forest Company on any new development that has National Forest Tree Planting Implications, and seeks to secure an appropriate level of tree planting. This liaison is also ongoing.

In addition, the District Council has worked closely with the National Forest Company in preparing its Local Plan policy. A policy was drafted and their views and need for revisions were sought at a meeting on 12 January 2015. This informed the relevant policy in the Local Plan.

Outcome: Delivery of Local Plan Policy, En3, which supports the work of the National Forest Company, including its strategy and its priorities for the future role of the National Forest.

Ongoing: Engagement is ongoing through attendance of and participation in the National Forest Planning Technical Group and ongoing liaison through planning applications submitted within the National Forest.

Charnwood Forest Regional Park

- 5.12 The Charnwood Forest is a distinctive area of rugged upland landscape towards the north - west of Leicestershire and is located within the local authorities of North West Leicestershire, Charnwood and Hinckley and Bosworth. It is valued for its international geological importance, rich biodiversity, landscape beauty, historical importance and recreational role. It is also a traditional working landscape with a high proportion of land in agricultural use, and in some part of the area, mineral working.
- 5.13 The now abolished Regional Spatial Strategy includes provision for the creation of a Charnwood Forest Regional Park. It was also identified as providing opportunities for recreation and access close to the growing urban areas of Leicester, Loughborough and Coalville.
- 5.14 Since 2007, a Charnwood Forest Regional Park Steering Group has been established comprising of the North West Leicestershire District Council, Leicestershire County Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and other key stakeholders such as the National Forest Company, Natural England and the Leicestershire Local Access Forum. This has agreed a vision for the Charnwood Forest Regional Park. The agreed vision is that “The unique natural and cultural heritage features of the Charnwood Forest will be managed and promoted through the Charnwood Forest Regional Park. The Regional Park will be recognised as an essential part of the growing communities in the Derby, Leicester and Nottingham area, now and in the future”. This group has also ensured that the objectives of the proposed Charnwood Forest Regional Park have been developed in parallel with the drafting of the then relevant Core Strategy planning policies by Charnwood Borough Council, North-West Leicestershire District Council, and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

Policy En4 – The Charnwood Forest

What have we cooperated on?: Support the concept and creation of the Charnwood Forest Regional Plan, across a number of local authorities, with a jointly supported concept, vision and objectives. The guiding principles, vision and themes of the Regional Park to be used by each local planning authority to define the boundary of a regional park and translate into planning policies for each area.

Who has been involved?: Bodies involved include representatives of Leicestershire County Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council, together with representatives from the National Forest Company, the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, Severn Trent Water, Natural England, the National Farmers’ Union, the Country Land and Business Association, the Mineral Products Association, and the Leicestershire Local Access Forum.

Process/Working Arrangements: The joint working has culminated in, since early 2012, the establishment of a Steering Group comprising of representatives from the above bodies. These meet quarterly

Since early 2016, the structure and working of this group has been amended to also include the establishment of Delivery Boards. Initially 4 Delivery Boards have been established for the following

issues and to assist on the delivery of the Charnwood Forest Regional Park Action Plan and to submit a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding:

- Tourism and Economy
- Social and Historic
- Environment
- Development

The steering group is also supporting the Charnwood Forest's a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding, including funding to support a Development Officer to take the bid process forward.

Outcome: Across boundary support for the concept and agreed vision of the Charnwood Forest Regional with local plan policies which support its role and specific character. Policy En4 of the Local Plan establishes the District Council's approach in respect of the Charnwood Forest and links with the jointly agreed vision. Joint working to deliver the Action Plan and progress a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding.

Ongoing: This work is ongoing and meetings of the group will continue to be held at regular intervals to progress the plan. It is also the intention of Delivery Boards to be established for specific projects and for their representation to consist of stakeholders relevant to the project that is to be delivered.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Policy He1 – Conservation and enhancement of North West Leicestershire's historic environment Policy He2 – Shopfront Design

What have we cooperated on?: Preparation of Local Plan policies relating to the Historic Environment

Who has been involved?: We have co-operated and engaged with Historic England throughout the preparation of these policies.

Process/Working Arrangements: The District Council has worked closed with Historic England in preparing its Local Plan policy. At a meeting on 12 December 2014 we discussed with Historic England the potential contents of a relevant policy, and the policy was drafted in partnership.

A further meeting was held on 4 February 2016 to prepare in partnership, policy supporting text and the contents of a Shopfront policy.

Outcome: Delivery of Local Plan Policy, He1 and He2 which supports the conservation and enhancement of our district's historic environment and has been prepared in partnership with Historic England.

Ongoing: At present it is not anticipated there to be ongoing work on this specific matter should the Local Plan be adopted.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Policy Cc2 – Water – Flood Risk Policy Cc3 – Water – Sustainable Drainage Systems

What have we cooperated on?: Identification of any issues in the district relating to existing water and wastewater infrastructure, particularly in its capacity to support the district's planned development

Who has been involved?: The Council initially commissioned consultants (Entec) to undertake a

combined Scoping and Outline Water Cycle Study (2010) in order to assess the capacity of the water environment an water infrastructure, and whether there was sufficient capacity in the infrastructure to accommodate the level of planned growth in the district. This piece of work led to the subsequent commission (Amec) of a Detailed Water Cycle Study (2012) and this identified solutions in order to facilitate development in the district whilst preventing further deterioration of water quality and water resources.

Process/Working Arrangements: A Steering Group was set up to undertake both of these studies and to allow co-operation and collaboration between the relevant key agencies. The group consisted of the District Council, the Environment Agency, Natural England and Severn Trent. The work on these studies has also had a direct input in to the River Mease SAC work (See above). A number of meetings were held throughout the course of the project and the final piece of work was agreed by all stakeholders.

Outcome: Preparation of development strategy that will not have an adverse impact on the water and wastewater network, and identification of mitigation measures where considered necessary.

Ongoing: No work on this is currently ongoing, however evidence supporting the Local Plan is kept under review and will be updated if there is a change in circumstances.

Policy Cc2 – Water – Flood Risk

Policy Cc3 – Water – Sustainable Drainage Systems

What have we cooperated on?: Development located in the district so that it would sequentially acceptable in relation to flood risk, to avoid flood risk to people and property where possible.

Who has been involved?: The Council initially commissioned consultants (Atkins) to undertake a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in 2008 and a subsequent refresh of this document was produced in 2015.

Process/Working Arrangements: A Steering Group was set up to undertake both of these studies and to allow co-operation and collaboration between the relevant key agencies. The group consisted of the District Council, Leicestershire County Council (Lead Local Flood Authority), the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water. A number of meetings were held throughout the course of the project and the final piece of work was agreed by all stakeholders.

Outcome: This piece of work provides an overview of the planning issues in relation to flood risk and development in the district. It provides a flood risk assessment of potential housing and employment allocations along with guidance on surface water management for new development. It has informed the preparation of the development strategy for the district as well as the above planning policies.

Ongoing: No work on this is currently ongoing, however evidence supporting the Local Plan is kept under review and will be updated if there is a change in circumstances.

6 Conclusions

6.1 North West Leicestershire considers that the information contained within this paper, along with material in other Background papers, demonstrates that is has satisfied its Duty to Co-operate in the preparation of its Local Plan as required by section 110 of the Localism Act and Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase act 2004. This paper also shows the co-operation and engagement that is ongoing.

Appendix A – HMA Authorities Timeline

TIMELINE OF CO-OPERATION WITH LEICESTER & LEICESTERSHIRE HOUSING MARKET AREA LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES IN RESPECT OF HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Date	Meeting	Outcomes
04/06/2015	Special meeting to which all HMA authorities invited	Presentation by NWLDC to explain what it was proposed would be recommended to members of NWLDC in terms of housing requirement for the upcoming draft Local Plan and the reasons for this.
18/09/2015	Development Plans Forum (DPF)	NWL Local Plan consultation due to start on 28 th September 2015, to run for 8 weeks
28/9/2015		Draft Local Plan published for consultation. Objections received from Charnwood Borough Council and Oadby & Wigston Borough Council
10/11/2015	Meeting with Oadby & Wigston Borough Council	Understanding of concerns of Oadby & Wigston regarding need for better understanding of impact of Roxhill on rest of the Housing Market Area.
30/11/2015		Consultation on draft Local Plan finished
11/12/2015	Planning Officers Forum (POF)	NWL disappointed to receive objections to draft local plan, further HMA-wide discussions necessary. Separate forum should be convened to consider local plan and issues raised.
18/1/2016	Meeting with Charnwood Borough Council	Understanding of concerns of Charnwood regarding need for better understanding of impact of Roxhill on rest of the Housing Market Area.
03/02/2016	Meeting of HMA authorities	It was agreed that NWL would look to prepare some options for discussion at Planning Officers Forum to help tell story of where at and where going.
05/02/2016 24/03/2016	POF	Ongoing discussions regarding the HMA concerns about NWL local plan and implications of Gladman appeal decision in NWL and how as a HMA might deal with future appeals.

01/04/2016		
07/04/16	Strategic Planning group (SPG)	Recommendations from POF put to NWL by SPG. NWL explained issues, agreed to set out position, informed would be meeting Minister
22/04/16	DPF	Recommendations of POF put to NWL by POF. Noted workshop scheduled for 3 rd May.
03/05/2016	Meeting of HMA authorities	<p>Workshop at which Justin Gardner, who had prepared the updated independent study to consider the likely impact of the Roxhill scheme on the housing requirement for North West Leicestershire, was present to answer any technical questions. The draft report had been circulated to the HMA in advance of that workshop (e-mail 27 April 2016 from Steve Bambrick).</p> <p>Comments from each of HMA were requested. E-mail responses were received from Leicester City (18 May 2016), Charnwood (19 May 2016), and Harborough (23 May 2016), all declining to offer detailed comments in advance of the HEDNA.</p>
12/05/16	POF	Discussed issues, NWL was asked to confirm OAN and review trigger position in writing
08/06/2016	Meeting of HMA authorities	<p>Meeting was intended to seek agreement on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft note from our last meeting of 3 May 2016 - A draft letter to each HMA authority setting out NWL's position on this matter - A report to document the chronology of the preparation of the NWL Local Plan to show how we have co-operated in respect of the issue of housing numbers (This report will also to be considered by MAG on 9th June) - A draft Statement of Common Ground (SOCG) <p>Following discussion it was agreed that the SOCG and letter would not be pursued and that the item for MAG would be withdrawn due to concerns amongst the HMA authorities.</p>
16/06/16	POF	<p>DCLG Head of Local Plans was in attendance. POF was advised that the Government's priority was for local authorities to put local plans in place as soon as possible.</p> <p>The possible options for, and likely timetable of, intervention where authorities were failing to adhere to their LDS or were otherwise in scope for intervention, were outlined to POF.</p>

		<p>It was agreed by all that the current situation was not ideal, but that if a local authority is confident that its local plan is robustly evidenced it should submit that local plan without delay</p> <p>NWLDC confirmed that, following careful consideration including of the concerns that had been raised by the HMA, its Leader, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning had agreed to proceed to the 28th June 2016 Council meeting, to publish the Submission draft Local Plan</p>
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Appendix B – Non HMA authorities timeline

TIMELINE OF CO-OPERATION WITH AUTHORITIES OUTSIDE OF THE LEICESTER & LEICESTERSHIRE HOUSING MARKET AREA LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES IN RESPECT OF HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Date	What	Outcomes
10/06/2015	Special meeting to which all HMA authorities invited	Presentation by NWLDC to explain what it was proposed would be recommended to members of NWLDC in terms of housing requirement for the upcoming draft Local Plan and the reasons for this.
28/9/2015		Draft Local Plan published for consultation.
30/11/2015		Consultation on draft Local Plan finished No comments received from non-HMA authorities.
12/05/2016	E-mail informing of outcome of stud undertaken by JG Consulting	E-mail set to; North Warwickshire, Tamworth, Lichfield, East Staffordshire, South Derbyshire, Derby City, Amber Valley, Erewash, Ashfield, Broxtowe, Nottingham City, Gedling and Birmingham City advising of report from JG Consulting and inviting comments
19/05/2016		Reply from Tamworth borough Council, no concerns raised.
27/05/2016		Reply from Erewash Borough Council no comments.
20/06/2016	Meeting with South Derbyshire	No concerns raised by South Derbyshire in terms of report and agreed to update existing Statement of Common Grounds (<u>Evidence Base reference LP/18</u>)

Appendix C – Correspondence from Leicestershire County Council and Highways England

FAO Ian Nelson
North West Leicestershire District Council,
Council Offices,
Whitwick Road,
Coalville,
Leicestershire
LE67 3FJ

Date: 27 January 2016
My Ref: IV/AY
Your ref:
Contact: Andy Yeomanson
Phone: (0116) 305 7184
Fax:
Email: andy.yeomanson@leics.gov.uk

Dear Ian,

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL PLAN – HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

I refer to your email of 12 January concerning discussions you have had with Highways England (formerly the Highways Agency) about the potential highways and transportation impacts of your emerging Local Plan growth proposals.

The County Highway Authority (CHA) has, over a number of years, been involved closely with the various transportation studies and assessments that have been undertaken to examine the impacts of growth in North West Leicestershire; this is both at a high level, such as evidence for the earlier Core Strategy, and on a site specific basis. As a result I can confirm that the CHA is aware of all the major development that is currently proposed in North West Leicestershire and is satisfied that it can be accommodated, subject to mitigation, without significant adverse impact upon the highway network.

In terms of mitigation, the studies and assessments have tended to paint a strategically consistent picture as to the key points on the highway network where growth is likely to impact most significantly. In turn, this has enabled, for example, your authority to put in place an approach to securing developer contributions towards highway mitigation measures and has also helped to successfully secure Growth Deal One monies to deliver the improvements at M1 Junction 22 and A42 Junction 13. Both improvements are designed to accommodate the growth proposals contained in your emerging Plan.

Going forward, the latest joint study work now being undertaken by our two authorities should yet further strengthen our position when bidding into future Growth Deal rounds (or any other sources of funding that might become available). Thus, the CHA is content that it is plausible to suppose that the necessary transportation mitigation measures should be fundable within the emerging Plan period.

Contd...

Environment and Transport Department
Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield. Leicestershire LE3 8RJ
Telephone: 0116 305 0001 Fax: 0116 305 0006 Minicom: 0116 305 0007
Email: etd@leics.gov.uk

Phil Crossland, Director

www.leicestershire.gov.uk



I hope that this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the initials 'A.R.' followed by a stylized, sweeping flourish that extends to the right.

Andy Yeomanson
Team Manager Transport Strategy and Policy

Our ref:
Your ref:

Steven Turvey
Asset Manager

North West Leicestershire District Council
Council Offices
Whitwick Road
Coalville
Leicestershire
LE67 3FJ

The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham B1 1RN

Direct Line: 0300 470 3657

10 March 2016

Dear Ian

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

I refer to comments made by Highways England in December 2015 regarding the North West Leicestershire District Council's draft Local Plan, which suggested that it would be helpful if NWLDC carried out a high level review of the Local Plan transport evidence base in order to demonstrate that changes since it had been produced did not affect the previous conclusions. Of particular interest to Highways England are schemes currently planned at M1 J22 and A42 J13, to be delivered by Leicestershire County Council, and funded by Growth Deal One and developer contributions.

Highways England has since received correspondence from Leicestershire County Council in a letter dated 27th January 2016, indicating that the improvements at the 2 junctions mentioned above are designed to accommodate the growth proposals in the draft Local Plan. Highways England can confirm therefore that it is satisfied that the proposed infrastructure identified for the strategic road network is appropriate.

We look forward to further engagement with NWLDC and LCC as the Local Plan progresses.

Yours sincerely



Steven Turvey
NDD Midlands
Email: steven.turvey@highwaysengland.co.uk